GRAVITY HISTORY PRESENTED

The first program in the Carbondale Historical Society's 1983 Lecture and Film Series was presented in Marian Hall Auditorium, Saint Joseph's Hospital, on Thursday evening, February 17, 1983. The program, sponsored jointly by the Historical Society and Saint Joseph's Hospital, was presented by S. Robert Powell, John V. Buberniak and Robert J. Tomaine.

The topic for the evening was the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale. S. Robert Powell, the principal speaker, opened the presentation with a summary history of the Gravity Railroad. Powell's history was divided into five parts, namely:

I. 1823-1841: formation of the D&H Canal Company; proposed plans for transporting coal from Carbondale to the canal at Honesdale; John B. Jervis' plan for the Gravity Railroad (5 up-hill planes between Carbondale and the top of the Moosic Mountains, 3 down-hill planes between Farview and the canal basin at Honesdale); the opening of the canal on October 16, 1828; the Stourbridge Lion; the opening of the Gravity Railroad on October 9, 1829.

II. 1841-1856: James Archbald's plan for the Gravity Railroad (5 double-tracked up-hill planes between Carbondale and the top of the Moosic Mountains, 2 down-hill planes between Farview and Honesdale); James Archbald's plan for a "light track" (planes 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17) between Honesdale and Waymart; the 7-mile extension of the Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Archbald (2 north-bound planes, numbers 26 and 27; one south-bound plane, the Back Plane) in 1843.

III. 1856-1866: the redesigned "loaded track" of 1866 (8 up-hill and 4 down-hill planes between Carbondale and Honesdale); the extension of the Gravity Railroad from Archbald to Valley Junction (2 south-bound planes, numbers 21 and 22; 3 north-bound planes, numbers 23, 24 and 25) in 1858; the extension of the Gravity Railroad from Valley Junction to Providence in 1860; 5 Gravity Railroad locomotives (Major Sykes, C. P. Wurts, Honesdale, Lackawanna, Isaac N. Seymour).